

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 02261 041532Z
ACTION ARA-14

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R 041526Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2771
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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FOR AIDAC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, TD
SUBJECT: SPECIAL STUDY PROGRAM FOR LABOR LEADERS

REF: A) STATE 194433; B) 77 PORT OF SPAIN 3392

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES BEING ADVISED OF SPECIAL STUDY PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN REF A. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF SHORT LEAD-TIME AVAILABLE AND FOR OTHER REASONS, WE CONSIDER IT 99 PER CENT CERTAIN THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO COME UP WITH AN APPROVED, ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATE BEFORE PROGRAM BEGINS. AS POINTED OUT IN REF B, GOTT POLICY REQUIRES ADVANCE NOTICE OF TWELVE WEEKS ON ALL TRIPS, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS OR THE LIKE OFFERED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. MOREOVER, THE OFFERING GOVERNMENT MAY NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAY IN THE NOMINATION PROCESS OR EVEN EXPRESS A PREFERENCE AS TO WHOM IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE NOMINATED FOR SUCH GRANTS--IT MAY ONLY DECLINE TO ACCEPT THE NOMINEE PROPOSED BY THE GOTT. WE KNOW OF NO TRINIDADIAN LABOR OFFICIAL WHO HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO ACCEPT A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT GRANT ABROAD IN RECENT YEARS (OTHER GOVERNMENTS OFTEN GET AROUND THE PROBLEM POSED BY GOTT POLICY SIMPLY BY HAVING THE GRANT OFFER

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COME THROUGH A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, SINCE IT IS WHO ISSUES THE INVITATION RATHER THAN THE SOURCE OF THE FUNDS WHICH CAUSES THE PROBLEM).

2. THREE OFFICIALS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS' UNION (LYLE TOWNSEND, KEN BRAITHWAITE, A THIRD PERSON NOT YET SELECTED) WILL BE IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER 16-20 FOR THE PTTI

CONGRESS. TOWNSEND, THE UNION'S GENERAL SECRETARY, AND BRAITHWAITE AT LEAST PLAN TO DO FURTHER TRAVEL IN THE U.S. AND CANADA ON UNION BUSINESS AROUND THE TIME OF THE CONGRESS. THEREFORE, WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT CWU WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A "HIGH-LEVEL LEADER" TO ATTEND THE SUBJECT STUDY PROGRAM, REGARDLESS OF FACTORS MENTIONED IN PARA 1.

3. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, WE DO NOT INTEND TO APPROACH GOTT IN THIS MATTER UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO--WE ARE PRECLUDED, IN ANY CASE, BY GOTT POLICY TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH UNION.

4. FOR BRIDGETOWN: RE PARA 11 REF A, IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING AND GOTT SENSITIVITIES ABOUT CONTACT WITH LOCAL UNIONS BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT RDO/C NOT RPT NOT MAKE ANY DIRECT APPROACH TO T&T ON SUBJECT PROGRAM. O'MAHONY

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